

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-9, 11-13, 16-18 and 20. Claims 21-42 have been added. All pending claims are reproduced below.

1-9. (Cancelled).

11-13. (Cancelled).

16-18. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (New) A computer implemented method for settlement of charges for network connection services, comprising:

receiving, from a local service provider, accounting records of connection service usage of the local service provider's network, operated independently from a home service provider's network, by a user belonging to a home service provider, the user connecting from the local service provider's network; filtering the accounting records to remove erroneous data; collecting the accounting records for a period of time; generating a report of service usage for the period of time; and transmitting the report of service usage to the home service provider.

22. (New) The method for settlement of charges for network connection services of claim 21, wherein generating a report of service usage for the period of time comprises:

categorizing the accounting records by home service provider; and aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

23. (New) The method for settlement of charges for network connection services of claim 21 wherein generating a report of service usage for the period of time comprises:

categorizing the accounting records by local service provider; and aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

24. (New) The method for settlement of charges for network connection services of claim 22, further comprising:

categorizing the accounting records by user.

25. (New) The method for settlement of charges for network connection services of claim 23, further comprising:

categorizing the accounting records by user.

26. (New) The method for settlement of charges for network connection services of claim 21 wherein filtering the accounting records to remove erroneous data comprises:

removing duplicate records.

27. (New) The method for settlement of charges for network connection services of claim 21 wherein filtering the accounting records to remove erroneous data comprises:

removing irrelevant data from the accounting records.

28. (New) The method for settlement of charges for network connection services of claim 21 further comprising:

multiplying the time period the user was provided service by the local service provider by a rate corresponding to a rate negotiated by the user's home service provider.

29. (New) The method of settlement of charges for network connection services of claim 21 further comprising:

categorizing the time the user was provided service by geographic location; and multiplying the time in each geographic location by a rate corresponding to charges for service in each geographic location for the user's home service provider.

30. (New) The method of settlement of charges for network connection services of claim 21, further comprising:

categorizing the time period the user was provided service by local service provider; and

multiplied by the time the user was provided service by the local service provider by a rate corresponding to charges for using the local service provider for the user's home service provider.

31. (New) A central settlement server for settling charges for network connection services comprising:

a loader for receiving accounting records from a local service provider;
a filter, coupled to the loader, to generate filtered accounting records by removing erroneous data from the accounting records received by the loader; and
a reporting module, coupled to the filter, for generating reports from the filtered accounting records to be sent to a home service provider.

32. (New) A central settlement server for settling charges for network connection services comprising:

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a loader for receiving accounting records from a local service provider and placing the raw accounting records in a raw records database;
a raw records database, coupled to the loader, for storing the raw accounting records;
a filter, coupled to the raw records database, to generate filtered accounting records by removing erroneous data from the accounting records received by the loader; and
a roaming history database, coupled to the filter, for storing the filtered accounting records; and
a reporting module, coupled to the roaming history database, for generating reports from the filtered accounting records to be sent to a home service provider.

33. (New) The central settlement server for settling charges for network connection services of claim 31, wherein the reporting module further comprises:

a rating means for adding service rate information to the accounting records.

34. (New) The central settlement server for settling charges for network connection services of claim 31, wherein the loader further comprises:

a transformation means for arranging fields in the accounting records into a predetermined format.

35. (New) The central settlement server for settling charges for network connection services of claim 31, wherein the filter further comprises:

a means for removing duplicate records.

36. (New) The central settlement server for settling charges for network connection services of claim 32, wherein the reporting module further comprises:

a rating means for adding service rate information to the accounting records.

37. (New) The central settlement server for settling charges for network connection services of claim 32, wherein the loader further comprises:

a transformation means for arranging fields in the accounting records into a predetermined format.

38. (New) The central settlement server for settling charges for network connection services of claim 32, wherein the filter further comprises:

a means for removing duplicate records.

39. (New) Computer readable storage device having computer readable code embodied thereon, the computer readable code for programming one or more computers to perform a method for settlement of charges for network connection services comprising:

receiving, from a local service provider, accounting records of connection service usage of the local service provider's network, operated independently from a home service provider's network, by a user belonging to a home service provider, the user connecting from the local service provider's network;
filtering the accounting records to remove erroneous data;
collecting the accounting records for a period of time;
generating a report of service usage for the period of time; and
transmitting the aggregated accounting records to the home service provider.

40. (New) The computer readable storage device having computer readable code embodied thereon, the computer readable code for programming one or more computers to perform a method for settlement of charges for network connection services of claim 38, wherein generating a report of service usage for the period of time comprises:

categorizing the accounting records by home service provider; and
aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

41. (New) The computer readable storage device having computer readable code embodied thereon, the computer readable code for programming one or more computers to perform a method for settlement of charges for network connection services of claim 38, wherein generating a report of service usage for the period of time comprises:

categorizing the accounting records by local service provider; and
aggregating the accounting records corresponding to the period of time.

42. (New) The computer readable storage device having computer readable code embodied thereon, the computer readable code for programming one or more computers to perform a method for settlement of charges for network connection services of claim 38, further comprising:

multiplying the time the user was provided service by the local service provider by a rate corresponding to the rate negotiated by the user's home service provider.